

Tiverton Wastewater District (TWWD)
Meeting held at the North Tiverton Fire District, Hilton Street
Board Meeting Minutes-February 3, 2015
Approved April 20, 2015

Meeting Time: 5:30 PM
TWWD Board Present: Leroy Kendricks (LK); Paul Northrup (PN); Chris Nearpass (CN); John Christo (JC); Michelle Tepfenhart (MT)
TWWD Board Absent: All members present
TWWD Staff Present: Lisa Andromalos (LA); Sarah Stearns (SS)
TWWD Staff Absent: Nan Godet (NG)
Guests: Tom Parece (TP), AECOM; Christine Hunsinger (CH), BGP Strategies; Joan Chabot (JC), Tiverton Town Council VP; members of public

1. Sewer Expansion Project Areas-Revised Map, project boundaries. Presentation by Tom Parece (TP) (Passed around handout; see appended document) Spoke on existing service area; USDA funding; Year 1 project; Q & A
Approximately 550 existing connections (indicated on map); and ~43,000 ft of pipe, 5 pump stations; ~80 to 90,000 gallons per day.

Two applications for USDA funding filed in 2014, for total of approximately \$7.1 million, public and private in grants and loans; of the ~\$2.4 million in private funding, up to 75% is in grants; ~\$4.6 million public; ~\$4 million in loans, which can be amortized. Each year, the District must re-apply for USDA funding (or any other funding)

Proposal is in two parts:

1. Infrastructure expansion (indicated on map); 7 areas
2. Tie-ins to existing infrastructure (indicated on map; ~ 200 connections which could be made.

This should result in ~400 parcels which could connect.

35 out of 160 parcels have either conformed to existing regulations, with an average age of ~14.5 years. Some “non-conforming” systems may actually conform but have no documentation to that effect.

Tie-ins would be those parcels abutting the existing sewer system. These number ~239 parcels; at this time, only 5 of those parcels have conforming systems with an average age of ~17 years.

TP indicated revised proposed Phase 1 areas on map. Brief discussion followed. If there are monies remaining after sewer expansion Phase I, then will move into CDBG areas (indicated on map).

This revised plan covers most of the priority areas, especially along Mount Hope Bay; represents almost 73% increase; maximizes use of the existing infrastructure.

TP asked if there were questions:

Q: Are there any additional pump stations at this stage?

A: No; however, on the riverside, each individual homeowner will have a low pressure pump

Q: Will individual pumps have enough pressure to reach the pump station?

A: Always pump at 11 gallons per minute.

LK commented on presentation; revised plan maximizes funds awarded from USDA; utilizes the existing infrastructure; also, CDBG areas will be given the opportunity to connect and so will abutters. Discussion followed, particularly concerning difference between gravity and low pressure systems.

LK entertained a motion that the plan as presented by AECOM be accepted; CN so moved; PN seconded; no further discussion; motion carried unanimously.

2. Public Education Plan: LA asked CH to introduce herself; outlined important steps in the public education process. (PowerPoint presentation)

Clear and comprehensive information; clear process; reach out to the public multiple ways and multiple times; need to co-ordinate actions and communication efforts with TWWD partners: Town, Representative Edwards, etc.

Two programs:

1. The abutters
2. The expansion program

Will need information for both groups; but that information will be used in a slightly different way. For the expansion program, will need to know the approximate cost per household. It is important for the people involved in Phase 1 to understand the voting process; must get a complete list of those properties involved (for each group); must know who the owner is and their mailing address. CH asked who was responsible for list; LA responded that it would be “driven” off TP’s list and the assessor’s list; how long will it take to generate list? TP said in ~week

CH would like email addresses (from the website) as well, so that can contact people in “multiple ways” (post card, telephone, email, social media); CH asked who in TWWD collects that information, LA responded LA and NG

CH: also post information to website (PDF); phone numbers? Do you want to call people? ~400 properties could be called; LA would consider calling expansion people; discussion followed; CH: do you want to use Facebook, Twitter? CH will set up both within the next two weeks

TP will supply simplified map; LA post PDF to website

CH: voting process; discussion followed. CH did some research on how to generate voter list; recommends discussing/deciding who votes at next BOD Meeting. LK agreed. Discussion followed re meeting date: Feb 18.

CH: a “not to exceed” number should be decided on before public meetings.

CH: when information changes, it is important to tell the public what and why

CH: what kind of information could/should go into a packet for voters? LK: the abutters will all get same information; expansion areas will be priced per-area and we must explain why (e.g., low pressure sewer); LA: there will always be a few unique properties. Discussion followed regarding codes and costs, cluster-systems, etc.

CH: must also understand how to work with partners (potential customers, representatives, Town Council...). LA: mailing went out to everyone in the District in December; this large group will be now broken into three group:

1. Neighborhood with opportunity to vote on sewers (~160);
2. Neighborhood not in Phase 1; will let know about Phase 2;
3. Abutters

Discussion concerning relationship with TWWD and Town. LK asked that LA get TWWD questions to the Town (liaison person Joan Chabot).

CH to draft letters to the three groups; draft a press release; develop a communications plan; put together a Facebook page; at next BOD Meeting will go over all types of communication and create a timeline for moving forward

LK asked TP to work with CH and LA on possible construction schedule; look at potential ramifications of various time-frames as a result of voting date/s. The vote will effect design which will effect construction. Discussion followed concerning abutters. TP said would work with SS.

JC asked if we can identify abutters for next meeting. Brief discussion followed. LK said want to hook up as a group, not individually (more cost-effective).

PN asked: Re Public Forum, with Rep. Edwards...number 6. Water flow; designed for 30.9 mgd; TP spoke to different types of flows. 7. Holding down the costs; CN the more flow, the more cost effective...LA asked if CH/LA could review each item; review of each followed.

LK proposed that the term Administrative Fee (on TWWD billing) be changed to OMA Fee (Operations, Maintenance and Alterations). Discussion followed. (Not moved; not voted)

LK called for any questions from the public.

LK entertained a motion to adjourn; PN so moved; CN seconded; motion passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 6:56 PM

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